

We Claim:

1. A method for cleaning a reformer gas in a fuel cell installation, the method which comprises:

passing a reformer gas through at least one fuel cell; and

electrochemically oxidizing CO in the at least one fuel cell to form CO₂.

2. The method according to claim 1, which comprises reducing a CO content in the reformer gas such that the CO content in the reformer gas is less than 100 ppm when the reformer gas flows onto an anode of a current-generating cell.

3. A fuel cell installation, comprising:

a reformer for providing a reformer gas;

a fuel cell stack connected to said reformer; and

said fuel cell stack including at least one cleaning cell for providing an integrated gas cleaning and at least one current-generating cell for generating an electrical current, said at least one cleaning cell electrochemically oxidizing CO to form CO₂ for cleaning the reformer gas.

4. The fuel cell installation according to claim 3, wherein:

said at least one current-generating cell has an anode; and

said at least one cleaning cell is configured to reduce a CO content in the reformer gas such that the CO content is less than 100 ppm when the reformer gas flows onto said anode of said at least one current-generating cell.

5. The fuel cell installation according to claim 3, including at least one dual-function fuel cell unit having a given voltage applied thereto, said at least one dual-function fuel cell unit selectively operating, depending on the given voltage applied thereto, as a cleaning cell and as a current-generating cell.

6. The fuel cell installation according to claim 3, wherein said at least one cleaning cell includes an anode having a voltage potential of greater than 0.4 V

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